

Nettleham Methodist Church  
**Cell Outlines**  
Week beginning: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2005  
**Theme: Faith Towards God**

**Welcome:** Share with your cell a time when you were faced with a big decision. What happened and what did you do about it, if anything?

**Introduction:** 'Faith towards God' is a natural progression on from repentance from dead works (25Sep). Whereas our focus of attention had been self, now our focus of attention is God. Dead works always interfere with faith towards God. We have to 'turn from' to enable us to 'turn to'. There must be repentance from dead works to enable faith towards God to develop. In fact, anything apart from faith in God is dead (Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:23). Faith, in the context of this foundational truth, can be defined as 'having trust, assurance or confidence in another person and that person's word'. Having faith in God involves an exchange of trust from self to Him.

**Worship. Suggestion:** If you have a musician handy or a worship CD sing a song or hymn that focuses on God's faithfulness. If not read the words of 'Great is Thy faithfulness' together.

### **Word/ Teaching Slot**

**Key Scriptures:** Hebrews 11:1-3, & 6; Matthew 17:20; Romans 10:17; Romans 1:17

- Read and discuss the above verses. What do they say to you about this faith in and towards God?

Faith is not a mental attitude towards problems. It is the very nature of God. God is a faith God: He created the universe by faith (Hebrews 11:3). The person who is born again by the Spirit of God has received the potential of the nature of God. The old nature of every man is dominated by negative forces such as fear, doubt, confusion and error, but the new nature is God's nature which is creative, bringing order out of chaos (Genesis 1:2), life out of death, health out of sickness, prosperity out of poverty, truth out of error, and righteousness out of sin. Faith is this new nature expressed (Romans 1:17). Faith towards God is the lifestyle of the disciple of Jesus.

(If you need further information on this subject go to [www.revmark.tk](http://www.revmark.tk) for the full teaching notes listed under Bible Teaching (Doctrine) on the main page).

### **Questions and Discussion Points**

1. Why is anything void of faith, dead?
2. Are we doing anything that is void of faith towards God and what are we going to do about it?
3. What do 1 John 5:4-5 and 1 Peter 1:5 say about faith?
4. Can we claim to have faith without the actions to back it up? (James 2:14-26).
5. Who is the author and perfecter of our faith? (Hebrews 12:2).
6. What does 'we live by faith and not by sight' mean? (2 Corinthians 5:7).
7. How should faith express itself? (Galatians 5:6).

### **Witness & Application**

Read through these 7 faith principles:

1. Repentance from dead works is necessary for faith towards God to develop.
2. Without faith it is impossible to please God.
3. Faith is believing that what God has said will happen.
4. Faith involves trusting God more than we trust ourselves.
5. Faith towards God should be the lifestyle of the disciple of Jesus.
6. Faith comes from God.
7. Faith grows as our knowledge of God grows.
  - How can we put these principles into action in our own lives this week?
  - Are there any areas we need prayer and support with?

**Prayer Suggestion:** Ask God to give you the gift of faith so that you can share it with others who, as yet, don't know Him. He will if you ask Him!